

Exodus 20:14-26 - Thursday, January 12th, 2009

- Tonight we'll begin in verse 14 with the seventh commandment, and who knows, Lord willing, we may actually, finally, finish chapter 20.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

- This commandment is a serious one, which is why Jesus said that we must take drastic measures in dealing with it.

Matthew 5:27-30 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. NIV

- Why is sexual sin so serious that it would require that we do whatever it takes so as to not be thrown into hell because of it?

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. NIV

- Perhaps one of the most, if not the most powerful sin that has led to many a downfall, is the sin of sexual immorality.

- Sometimes the ones who you would think are the strongest in this area end up being the ones who end up falling in this area.

15 "You shall not steal.

- This commandment is very straight forward. Don't steal anything from anyone at anytime in anyway. Well, you say, I don't.

- Actually, yes, we can be guilty of breaking this commandment in ways that we may have not considered before: Consider this story:

Several years ago, a pastor from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area. When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount? Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.' When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change.' The driver, with a smile, replied, 'Aren't you the new pastor in town?' 'Yes' he replied. 'Well, I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.' When the pastor stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold out your Son by stealing a quarter.'

Watch your thoughts; they become words.

Watch your words; they become actions.

Watch your actions; they become habits.

Watch your habits; they become character.

Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

- There's actually another way we can be guilty of breaking the "You shall not steal," commandment. We can actually steal from God.

Malachi 3:8-12 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse-the whole nation of you-because you are robbing me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. 12 "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty. NIV

It's been said that; "If you want to take the pulse of your faith, there are many places to look— beginning with your checkbook. The church counts what we give; God counts what we keep."

16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

- Bearing false witness is not just telling a lie, but being tricky with the truth. It's been said that a half truth is a whole lie.

- It's also been said that we can give the right information but with the wrong implication all because of our evil motivation.

- This commandment can be broken by slander, talebearing, questioning someone's motives, creating false impressions, or even silence.

"Slander . . . is a lie invented and spread with intent to do harm. That is the worst form of injury a person can do to another. Compared to one who does this, a gangster is a gentleman, and a murderer is kind, because he ends life in a moment with a stroke and with little pain. But the man guilty of slander ruins a reputation which may never be regained, and causes lifelong suffering. . . ."Talebearing . . . is repeating a report about a person without careful investigation. Many, many times I have known what it is to suffer with that. To repeat a story which brings discredit and dishonor to another person without making sure of the facts, is breaking this commandment . . . How many people, especially Christian people, revel in this, and delight in working havoc by telling tales about others. To excuse the action by saying they believed the report to be true, or that there was no intention to malign, is no justification. . . .What about inappropriate silence? "When someone utters a falsity about another and a third person is present who knows that statement to be untrue but, for reasons of fear or being disliked, remains quiet, that third person is as guilty of breaking this law as if he had told a lie. What a startling revelation it would be if a tape recording could be played of all that every church member has said about his fellow members in one week!"

Alan Redpath

Many years ago in a small European Jewish village a man had become dissatisfied with the local rabbi. He engaged in gossip about the rabbi all over town. As time went by, the rabbi became very sick and was on his deathbed. The man was convicted about his gossiping and didn't want the rabbi to die with the bad blood between them so he went to the rabbi, confessed his sin and asked for forgiveness. He asked if there was anything he could do to undo the damage his gossip had caused. "Of course, I will forgive you," the old man said, "and these something you can do if you are willing." "Anything," the repentant gossipier anxiously replied. "I want to take a sack of chicken feathers," came the request, "go up on the big hill on the outside of town and release them into the wind." Thinking this was a very odd request indeed but wanting to demonstrate his contrition, the man did exactly as asked. He returned to the rabbi and asked him if there was anything else. "Just one thing," the dying man said. "I want you to go and pick up all the feathers." "That's impossible!" the offender exclaimed. "There is no way to pick up all the feathers. There is no way of knowing where the wind has taken them." "Neither is it possible for you to undo the damage of gossip," the rabbi responded.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

- Covetousness, simply put, is the wanting what someone else has. This commandment is broken when we just desire it and covet it.

Luke 12:15 15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." NKJV

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF COVETOUSNESS

- ☐ In leadership: Moses from Miriam and Aaron who became jealous of him.
- ☐ In performance: David from Saul because of the 10's of thousands.
- ☐ In family: the prodigal son from his brother because his father threw a feast.
- ☐ In ministry: Joseph from his brothers because of the call on his life.
- ☐ In opposition: Mordechai from Haman, they ended up trading places.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS	JESUS
1-Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3	Matthew 4:10 "You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him."
2-Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:4-6	Luke 16:13 "No one can serve two masters."
3-Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Exodus 20:7	Matthew 5:34 "But I say, don't make any vows! If you say, 'By heaven!' it is a sacred vow because heaven is God's throne."
4-Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Exodus 20:8-11	Mark 2:27, 28 "The Sabbath was made to benefit people and not people to benefit the Sabbath. And I, the Son of Man, am master even of the Sabbath!"

5-Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Exodus 20:12	Matthew 10:37 "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine."
6-Thou shalt not kill. Exodus 20:13	Matthew 5:22 "If you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment!"
7-Thou shalt not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14	Matthew 5:28 "Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
8-Thou shalt not steal. Exodus 20:15	Matthew 5:40 "If you are ordered to court and your shirt is taken from you, give your coat, too."
9-Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.	Matthew 12:36 "You must give an account on judgment day of every idle word you speak."
10-Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. Exodus 20:17	Luke 12:15 "Don't be greedy for what you don't have."

18 Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.19 Then they said to Moses,"You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." 20 And Moses said to the people,"Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin."21 So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

- Notice how after they witnessed all of this, they run from God then "stood afar off", saying "let not God speak with us, lest we die".
- This is yet another picture of how it is with us, we need our, greater than Moses, Jesus, to be our mediator before God, lest we die.

22 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'You have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.23 You shall not make anything to be with Me -- gods of silver or gods of gold you shall not make for yourselves.

- Isn't this interesting, here God tells them that they are not to make any other god's of gold or silver for themselves.
- As we'll see very soon, according to Aaron, a golden calf just pops up out of the fire, and they're going to have to sort of worship it.

24 An altar of earth you shall make for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen. In every place where I record My name I will come to you, and I will bless you.25 And if you make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of hewn stone; for if you use your tool on it, you have profaned it.26 Nor shall you go up by steps to My altar, that your nakedness may not be exposed on it.'

- Notice that God doesn't want any art work on His altar, or any steps going up to the altar, why? Because it would expose the flesh!
- If I step up to the altar of service, and exalt myself, I then get all the focus on me, and my flesh, and no flesh can glory in His presence.